

REMARKS

Foreign Priority:

Applicant thanks the Examiner for acknowledging the claim to foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d), and that the certified copy of the priority document has been received in U.S. Application No.: 09/784,206, the parent application.

Information Disclosure Statement:

Applicant thanks the Examiner for returning the initialed Form PTO/SB/08 A & B filed on July 1, 2003, thus indicating that all of the references listed thereon have been considered.

Drawings:

Applicant also thanks the Examiner for indicating that the drawings filed with the present application have been accepted.

Claim Rejections:

Claims 15-19 are all of the claims that have been examined in the present application, and currently these claims stand rejected.

35 U.S.C. § 102(b) Rejection - Claims 15-19:

Claims 15-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,349,892 to Morita et al. In view of the following discussion, Applicant respectfully traverses the above rejection.

As an initial matter, Applicant notes that claims 15-18 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Thus, the following discussion will focus only on claim 19.

With regard to claim 19, Applicant has been unable to identify any disclosure, within the '892 patent, that discloses each and every feature of claim 19. Specifically, there is no disclosure of a through hole in the casing, through which a projecting type locking member projects, to hold the sliding door in place, as set forth in claim 19.

The '892 patent shows a casing 1 which contains a door unit 30, having a slide door 3. The slide door 3 is kept close via springs 20 and locking members 3f, which engage with engagement portions 25b on the walls 25 of the unit 30. As shown in Figure 44B when a force is applied to the door 3, the door 3 is moved and the lock portions become disengaged. With that said, there is no disclosure of a through hole in the casing 1, through which a projecting type locking member projects, to hold the sliding door 3 in place.

An exemplary, non-limiting embodiment of this is shown in at least Figures 22A and 22B of the present application, where a through hole 16 is used for a locking member 82 to hold the door 80 in place. The '892 patent fails to disclose or suggest this aspect of the claimed invention.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that the '892 patent fails to disclose each and every element of the claimed invention, in particular the claimed through hole. Therefore, the '892 patent fails to anticipate the claimed invention, as required under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 102(b). Accordingly, Applicant hereby requests the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection of the above claim 19. Further, as new claim 20 depends on

claim 19, Applicant submits that this claim is also allowable, at least by reason of its dependence.

New Claims:

Applicant has added new claims 20-36 to further claim the present invention. Claim 20 is allowable, at least by reason of its dependence on claim 19, and support for this new claim can be found in at least Figure 21 of the present application, and its corresponding discussion.

Claims 21-36 are also allowable, as the prior art fails to teach each and every aspect of the claimed invention. Support for the subject matter of claims 21-28 can be found on pages 29-31 of the present application, and in the exemplary, non-limiting embodiments shown in Figures 13 and 14. Further, support for the subject matter of claims 29-36 can be found on pages 33-35 of the present application, and in the exemplary, non-limiting embodiment shown in Figures 18 and 19.

Conclusion:

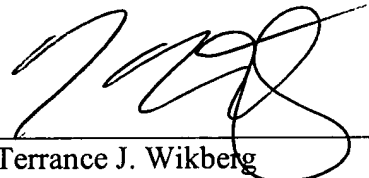
In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111
Application Number: 10/609,391

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The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



Terrance J. Wikberg
Registration No. 47,177

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

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